

# Will Democracy Lose?

## Views of Soviet Dissatisfaction

**THE NEW FRONTIER OF WAR.** by William R. Kintner and Joseph Z. Kornfeder. (Henry Regnery Co., 362 pgs., \$7.50.)

Reviewed by GLEN R. TOWNSEND

**COMMUNISM, ACCORDING TO** the authors of this book, has been gaining in the struggle for world domination. But, they contend, it is highly vulnerable to "psycho-political" warfare. They also think that the western democracies should take advantage of this weakness. Dr. Kintner, a former member of the Central Intelligence Agency, is now professor of political science at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. His co-author is a founder of the Communist Party in the United States who now devotes his efforts to fighting what he eventually came to see as an evil force.

The authors believe that Communism can best be destroyed from within by the same methods which the party has successfully used in attaining its present strength. But the first condition for success is the will to win, which marks the dedicated Communist. Democracy will lose, they declare, if it seeks only compromise or accommodation. They fear that Khrushchev's boast that "we will bury you" is regarded with academic detachment by too many of those concerned with American policy.

**EXPLAINING THEIR PROGRAM**, the authors point out that even behind the Iron Curtain members of the Communist party are in the minority while in the population at large are many sectors of potential dissent. The resentment of the peasants manifests itself in their refusal to exert themselves in tilling the land; they have come to believe that the all-powerful state robs them of the fruits of their labor and is unable to assure them even the standard of living their parents and grandparents enjoyed.

"The industrial working class is almost as unhappy with the state of affairs in the Soviet Union as are the peasants. The labor is hard, the working hours long, the wage scale low. Only a small minority of the skilled industrial workers, usually the party members, enjoy a somewhat higher standard of living. . . . There are other dissatisfied groups. The Soviet trade unions, whose power was reduced to zero under Stalin's reign, want to regain at least the power they had under Lenin.

**THE INDUSTRIAL MANAGERS**, who have become a force in the last 30 years, want to manage and are against bureaucratic overcentralization. The various national and local Soviets want to be more than mere rubber stamps for Moscow. . . . Thus we have an upper class which must constantly debate itself, whose status is insecure, and whose temporary rights exist only at the pleasure of the summit of the party bureaucracy. Discontent exists in depth and breadth, far exceeding anything existing in the West. But no way has been found to counter the oppressive apparatus which holds it down." It is here, the authors believe, that the outside world can be of assistance.

"What is needed to create a counterforce is an orientation theory which serves as a comprehensive goal for action. The theory should advocate values and goals opposite to those of Communism and be appealing enough to unite the opposition. Communist psychological warfare has been concentrated for decades, not on advocating the Communist theory and demands, but on discrediting the capitalist system. . . . The greater their failures the more intense the smearing of Western society. The technique has proven successful and we must not ignore it. . . . Since there is so much to discredit we could probably in five years of concentrated effort accomplish what took them 50 years."

**"MARX HAD TO INVENT** a social theory and at the same time discredit existing theories and practices. Western society, nevertheless has improved in precisely those things on which Communism has defaulted—humanism, freedom and higher living standards. A counter movement may draw inspiration by contrasting the two. If such a movement is ably supported from the West, it can effect great changes behind the Iron Curtain—and do it in our lifetime."

This would have been a more readable and interesting book if the authors had not spent their half of the book on the